Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2000
The Village of Akron Water System
21 Main Street, Akron, NY 14001
(Public Water Supply ID# 1400397)

INTRODUCTION

To comply with State regulations, the Village of Akron annually issues a report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to raise your understanding of drinking water and awareness of the need to protect our drinking water sources. Last year, your tap water met all State drinking water health standards. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your drinking water, please contact **Mr. James Akin, Deputy Superintendent of Public Works at 542-2680.** We want you to be informed about your drinking water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Village Board meetings. The Board meeting schedule is available from the Clerk-Treasurer's Office , 21 Main Street, Akron, NY 14001, on the Village Website [www.erie.gov/akron], or by calling 542-9636.

WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants; inorganic contaminants; pesticides and herbicides; organic chemical contaminants; and radioactive contaminants. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water source is Murder Creek Reservoir in the Town of Bennington. Our treatment plant is located adjacent to the reservoir in the Town of Darien. We also have a connection to the Village of Corfu Water System at NYS Route 33 in Corfu. The Corfu connection is for supplemental water in the event of an emergency. It was not used in 2000.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Our water system serves 2900 people in the village through 1289 service connections. We also serve 13 industrial accounts, two water districts in the Town of Darien, two water districts in the Town of Newstead and 40 easement customers living along the transmission main between the water plant and the village.

The total water produced in 2000 was 174 million gallons. The average amount of water treated each day was 476 thousand gallons. Our highest daily production was 736 thousand gallons. The amount of water delivered to customers was 140 million gallons. This leaves an unaccounted-for total of 34 million gallons, or 19.5% of the water produced. This unaccounted-for total is attributed to fire department activity, hydrant use, water main and village maintenance, worn and inaccurate meters and leaks.

In 2000, village water customers paid a base charge of $20.00 for the first 5000 gallons and $3.25 per 1000 gallons after that. Bills were mailed quarterly. The average quarterly residential water bill in 2000 was $49.29.

ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These

contaminants include: total coliform, turbidity, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, are more than one year old.

It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the Erie County Health Department at 858-7660.

Table of Detected Contaminants

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Avg/Max) (Range)	Unit measure-ment	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity [1]	No	9/4/00	High - 1.52 Low - 0.026 Ave - 0.073	NTU	N/A	TT= < 5 NTU	Soil runoff
Turbidity	No	9/00	100%	NTU	N/A	TT = 95% of Samples < 0.5 NTU	Soil runoff
Copper	No	8/99	0.18 [2] 0.02 – 0.21	mg/l	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Lead	No	8/99	2.0 [3] ND – 5.0	ug/l	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Total Trihalomethanes	No	10/00	78.5 [4] 40.6 – 172.3	ug/l	N/A	MCL = 100	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Notes:

1 – Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We test it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

2 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the 10 sites tested. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the copper values detected in our water system. In this case, ten samples were collected in our water system and the 90th percentile value was the ninth highest value (0.18 mg/l). The action level for copper was not exceeded at any of the sites tested.

3 – The level presented represents the 90th percentile of the ten samples collected. The action level for lead was not exceeded at any of the 10 sites tested.

4 – This level represents the highest annual quarterly average calculated from data collected.

Definitions:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
Non-Detects (ND): Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.
Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.
Milligrams per liter (mg/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).
Micrograms per liter (ug/l): Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We have learned through our testing that some contaminants have been detected; however, these contaminants were detected below the level allowed by the State. During 2000, our system was in complete compliance with applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.

DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:

- Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;
- Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to treat and deliver water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers; and
- Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential fire fighting needs are met.

You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:

- Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it up an you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.
- Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.
- Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, Then check the meter after 15 minutes, If it moved, you have a leak.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

In 2000, the village began planning to refurbish the reservoir spillway. In order to proceed with this project, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is requiring that we undertake a complete engineering analysis of the spillway, which will include gathering extensive data on the reservoir and the dam. The village has engaged the Sear-Brown Group, of Rochester, New York, to do this study. The data from the study will be used to determine, among other things, the possibility of raising the dam level to increase the capacity of the reservoir. Increasing the capacity of the reservoir would make the Akron Water System less vulnerable to the effects of drought and better able to insure a continuous supply of fresh, clean drinking water to its customers even during extended periods of dry weather. The engineering study will be completed in 2001.

The water line on Bloomingdale Avenue, from Hoag Avenue to the village line, is scheduled for replacement. The village has secured a $90,000.00 Community Development Block Grant and is currently seeking additional funding to help make this important project possible in 2001.

IN CLOSING

We are pleased to have been able to supply our customers with high quality drinking water during the year 2000. You may be assured of our continued commitment to the preservation and improvement of this valuable resource.

If you have questions, please call the Village of Akron Department of Public Works at 542-2680.